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Newsletter #5:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

It's been a busy week with coin auctions in the U.S. and abroad. The Goldberg auction was incredibly strong with multiple phone bidders and I'm told a packed auction room. A few of my clients were successful, but finding a great deal in this auction was not to be. The CNG eSale 391 also appeared to be successful. Minutes after the close of the CNG eSale 391, the next eSale (392) was online and available.

This week there are a few noteworthy events.

Kricheldorf Auction - Germany, February 20-21

The Kricheldorf auction is happening at 9 a.m. (CET). While there remains some time to give me bids, the timing is very short as you will likely read this newsletter earliest on Sunday morning. I will be waking at 2 a.m. (CST) in order to phone bid. Again, there are 520 ancient coins, but over 2100 coins in total, that will be auctioned off over two days.

Gorny & Mosch (244-247) and Künker (288-291) Germany, March 6-10 and March 13-17

G&M and Künker both have large, impressive auctions in March. Some of you will receive a G&M paper catalog from me in the coming days. I requested extra copies for customers as I know many enjoy to keep these for their libraries. Please note that I typically receive only one catalog for auctions and only when I notify the auction house am I able to get additional copies. If notified enough in advance I am happy to request extra copies.

Both auctions offer high quality ancient coins. For anyone interested I do not charge anything for my services for either of these auctions as there is a dealer discount. Please note that I will be on the auction floor for G&M and will phone bid for Künker.

All G&M and Künker lots are viewable at Sixbid or Numisbid.

A note about live versus internet auctions

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but my preference is always to attend. That said, if you have interest in my representation services, then please let me know in advance. At this time it is not my wish to charge extra for my services, however, please keep in mind that I can only justify an overseas trip when enough interest is there. So if you have interest in an auction just let me know ahead of time if possible.

Coin of the Week

The coin this week is a didrachm of Pixodarus, one of the dynasts of Caria. It features a beautiful three-quarter facing head of Apollo. The coin has a dark patina likely from being stored away for several years. It comes from a B&N/Nomisma, June 1984 auction (lot 129).

Pixodarus was the youngest son of the royal family descending from his father Hecatomnus. Caria, located on the western shores of Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) was ruled by the Hecatomnid Dynasty for over half a century. Since the Achaemenids had ownership of Caria at the time, Hecatomnus was installed as satrap of Caria by the ruler Artaxerxes II. Once Hecatomnus died in 377 BC the oldest of his children Maussolus succeeded him, followed by his eldest daughter, Artemisia, who was also the wife of her brother Maussolus (interestingly the creation of the mausoleum was named after the ruler). This followed by the appointment of his second son Idrieus and finally his younger daughter Ada. Unfortunately the exclusion of his youngest son, Pixodarus, created a rift between sister Ada and brother. Pixodarus then proceeded to take the throne and exile his sister to the countryside.

At the same time the Macedonians were growing in strength and dominance. To try to make an alliance, Pixodarus offered his daughter in marriage to the younger son of Philip II of Macedon, Arrhidaeus. It is suggested that Alexander III, the Great, the older son of Philip II, was incensed at this proposal and instead sent word to Pixodarus that he would instead like his daughter's hand in marriage. This angered Alexander's father and the Caria-Macedonian ties were broken. Pixodarus' daughter instead then married a Persian, Orontobates. Once Pixodarus died in 336 BC, instead of Ada re-establishing her satrapy in Caria, the Achaemenid king was forced to acknowledge Orontobates as satrap.

Once Alexander captured the area of Caria and the Achaemenids were out he reinstated Ada as satrap. She was the last of the Hecatomnids to rule Caria. Once Alexander died the ownership of Caria was fought among his generals first being ruled by Antigonos, Lysimachus, under Ptolemaic rule and finally under Seleucid governance until the Romans took over after the defeat of the Seleucids in 188 BC. Caria was then split between the Pergamene Kingdom to the north and Rhodes to the south. Eventually both parts came under Roman rule.

If you are interested in this coin, please contact me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com.

If you are interested in seeing other coins that I have for purchase, please visit my website at www.shannaschmidt.com

Until next week,

Shanna

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